

Non-Motorized Trails Council Meeting Agenda for Jan 11, 2017

11:30am-1pm

Telephone 888-291-0312

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Agenda:

- 1. Role Call for Attendance (11:30-11:35am)**
- 2. Approval/discussion of Meeting Minutes from Sept, 2016 meeting (11:30-11:40pm)**
- 3. Recreation Opportunities Analysis (Designee from NRTTC) Dana (11:40-11:50)**

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Whether it's taking in the scenery on a trail, enjoying the excitement of an ATV or snowmobile, hunting, fishing, trapping, birdwatching, or enjoying a summer night around a campfire, Wisconsin has a rich history of providing exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities. As our population grows and recreation patterns evolve, the state must continue to respond to changing needs.

To better understand recreation needs, the Department of Natural Resources is initiating a project, referred to as the Recreation Opportunities Analysis, to develop regional reports describing current outdoor recreation opportunities and identify where the most pressing gaps exist. One goal for these reports is to provide specific guidance to our property management planning process on the recreation needs in each region and the department properties that may be well-suited to address them.

This project will also assist the department in meeting the requirements of a new state law (s. 23.116, Wis. Stats.), which directs the department to inventory and map all roads located on its properties and to identify which are open to motorized vehicles. The agency expects to complete the inventory and mapping phase in May 2017. The subsequent step is to determine which roads are appropriate for what types of motorized vehicles. As you may know, the department is also currently updating its Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). While the SCORP will present recreation information at a broader scale and address a wider array of activities, this new initiative will focus more on informing management decisions on state-owned lands and will provide more detailed information and analysis at a regional scale.

To ensure that the department appropriately considers issues associated with providing high-quality recreation opportunities, we are pulling together a team representing a diversity of activities to provide guidance. The Department invites you or a representative from your group to join our statewide stakeholder team. The team will be tasked with a number of roles and responsibilities that are described on the attached page. We look forward to your participation in this important project. At your earliest convenience, please confirm your involvement and indicate who will represent your group on the stakeholder team by contacting: Cameron Bump, Park & Recreation Specialist Email: Cameron.Bump@Wisconsin.gov Phone: 715-839-2786

DNR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES ANALYSIS Statewide Stakeholder Team

Purpose of the Team:

- Provide statewide perspectives to the department on a broad range of recreation activities as the department develops regional reports summarizing existing recreation opportunities and future needs.
- Work collaboratively with a diverse representation of outdoor recreation interests to provide input to the department on how best it can provide high-quality recreation opportunities on its properties.
- Help facilitate opportunities for the public to provide input and perspectives to the department as it develops the regional reports.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Team:

- Provide guidance, information, and assistance to the department as it seeks to:
 - o Develop statewide goals for outdoor recreation and assess how state-owned lands can most effectively help meet these goals.
 - o Describe the attributes that lead to high-quality experiences for recreation activities offered on department lands.
 - o Identify existing recreation opportunities and future needs in each region of the state.
 - o Develop recreation criteria to evaluate and determine appropriate locations and conditions for specific recreation activities on department lands.
 - o Identify the relative priorities for improving recreation opportunities across regions of the state.
 - o Describe issues and concerns associated with providing recreation opportunities in Wisconsin, and specifically on DNR lands.
- Serve as liaisons to regional committees that will provide information on existing recreation opportunities, trends, needs and potential priorities within the regions.

- Agree on a decision-making process for the Team to develop recommendations to the department on needs and priorities.

Expected time commitment:

Although details are still being worked out, the department expects this team to work through the fall of 2017. The Team will have periodic meetings, mostly earlier in the year, along with various assignments. We anticipate having meetings (one meeting/month) in January, February and March.

4. Unicycle Discussion DNR/Dana (11:50-12:00pm)

DNR is seeking the advice of the NRTTC regarding the use of unicycles on DNR trails.

Some background on unicycles.

Like bicycles and off-highway motorcycles, there are different types of unicycles. All have the same basic components (wheel, pedal, saddle). See Wikipedia.

Under WI state law, unicycles do not meet the definition of a bicycle (must have two or more wheels), are classified as a “play vehicle” like a skateboard and are not allowed on public roads. They are included in the listing of vulnerable highway users in state law.

Demand for places to ride unicycles appears to be growing. Unicycle national championships were held in Madison in 2015; there are youth and adult development/mentoring groups in WI, seemingly to increase interest.

We are seeing more demand for mountain unicycle (“MUnis”) use on mountain bike trails. (For example, mountain unicycling was included as an entry category at the popular Fall Color Festival at the Kettles.)

In general, unicycles appear to be allowed on bike trails in other states.

We would like your (NRTTC) opinion on whether this use (unicycle) should be allowed on DNR bicycle trails.

Below is a list of potential recommendations that could come from the NRTTC discussion on this topic.

Allow unicycles on bicycle trails under the authority of the DNR

On a case-by-case basis allow unicycles on bicycle trails under the authority of the DNR

Do not allow unicycles on bicycle trails under the authority of the DNR

4. Electric Bikes Updates DNR/Bill (12-12:20)

As an update to the update I provided NRTTC on this topic on 12/12/16, the rule package that includes provisions for allowing electric bicycles on DNR lands is now scheduled to go to the Natural Resources Board at their January meeting. Natural Resources Board agendas are posted online:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/About/NRB/2017/Jan/January-2017-NRB-agenda.html> .

The background information for this particular rule package is posted here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/About/NRB/2017/Jan/01-17-2B3.pdf> . The proposals specific to motorized bicycles is in Sections 8 & 9.

If the rule package is approved by the Natural Resources Board, it will then go to the legislature for review. If the package passes legislative review, the rules would be enacted.

5. Discussion of Council Involvement in DNR decisions and the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area Master Plan Anne/Bill/Dave/Joel (12:20-12:40)

I would be interested in gathering opinions from my fellow council members as to whether they believe or not they have been involved as specified by the state law discussed previously.-Bill

Per DNR:

Members of the NRTTC,

The subject of the council's role and the department's obligation is at issue in current litigation filed against the department by the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance. For that reason, I will refrain from engaging in further correspondence (in writing or otherwise) on that topic, at this time. -Brigit Brown

6. Set meeting dates for 2017 Joel (12:40-12:50)

Wed., Jan. 11, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

(Brigit, Jill and Dave voted for Jan. 18, and Brigit followed up saying she will not be able to take part if the meeting is held Jan. 11.)

Wed., April 5, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

(Brigit and Jill voted for April 12 alternative but I don't know if that means neither could attend if we help our meeting on the 5th.)

Wed., June 7, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Everyone was OK with this date.

Wed., Sept. 6 got 7 votes

Wed. Sept. 13 got 4 votes

So ... Sept. 6 it is?

7. New business and recap of agenda items with goals (12:50-1)

8. Next meeting Wednesday, April 5, 2017; 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. By teleconference